

Miami Township Fire and EMS Operating Procedures



TITLE:

WATER RESCUE OPERATING PROCEDURE

#602

EFFECTIVE DATE:

03/18/2015

DATE AMENDED:

REVIEW DATE:

09/18/2015

APPROVED BY:

Chief Steve Kelly

This Operating Procedure shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until superseded.

PURPOSE

Establish an Operating Procedure (OP) for operations at a water rescue event.

These are not rules, but Procedures to be used under the best of conditions with the optimum resources available. It is important to note that judgment and discretion must be used on all functions, activities and operations of the department.

SCOPE

This OP applies to any incident involving a water rescue event including human and animal victims. The goal is to ensure rescuer safety while operating at the scene of a water rescue event

DEFINITIONS

Helm

A wheel and any associated equipment for steering a boat.

River Right

The right side of the river when facing downstream.

River Left

The left side of the river when facing downstream.

Upstream

Toward or in the higher part of a stream; against the current.

Downstream

With or in the direction of the current of a stream.

10 Foot Rule

Whenever within 10 feet of water, personnel will wear a personal floatation device (PFD) and donning of turn-out gear will not be permitted.

PROCEDURE

A. Training

1. Boat training will be necessary to assure operator and personnel are prepared in the event of an emergency.
2. Only operators who have successfully completed the Ohio Boating Education Course and who are familiar with Miami Township Fire and EMS (MTF&EMS) watercraft will be permitted to operate department watercraft.

Safe operations will be conducted when training. If the boat is being operated during normal river conditions, river at pool, for operator familiarity, one boat can be used provided the next jurisdiction with water rescue capabilities has been notified.



Miami Township Fire and EMS Operating Procedures

TITLE:

WATER RESCUE OPERATING PROCEDURE

#602

B. Communications

1. When the boat is entering a waterway, the Clermont County Communications Center shall be notified that Boat 26 is on the water and which waterway it will be operating.
2. The boat operator shall be responsible for the radio operations.

C. Incident Command And Safety

1. Establish Incident Command (IC) and the incident location per the *Incident Command OP #301*.
2. The District 26 supervisor or other arriving command personnel shall assume IC upon their arrival.
3. Any dispatch for a water-related event will initially include Engine 26, Rescue 26, Boat 26, the District 26 supervisor, an ambulance and additional engine.
4. Any water-related event that is an actual rescue or recovery will require a second alarm.
 - a. If specialty, mutual-aid resources are needed, it will be up to the Incident Commander to make those request(s).
 - b. Mutual-aid resources include:

Department	Resource
Anderson	15.5' & 22' Zodiac Boats
Central Joint	15' Rigid Hull Boats Inflatable Rapid Deployment Crafts x 2
Hamilton Township	12' Zodiac Boat 14' Jon Boat
Loveland Task Force One	
Pierce Township	17.5' Aluminum Jon Boat
Union Township	14' Jon Boat
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Multiple Inflatable boats up to river cruisers
Warren County Water/Dive Team	16' Jon Boat Inflatable Rapid Deployment Craft

5. The Incident Commander shall obtain, at a minimum, the following information:
 - a. Witnesses
 - b. Number of victims



Miami Township Fire and EMS Operating Procedures

TITLE:

WATER RESCUE OPERATING PROCEDURE

#602

- c. Establish contact with victim(s)
 - d. Exact location
 - e. Reference point of entry
 - f. Human, animal involved or both
 - Animal rescues shall be attempted with the use of a snare. The rescuer should refrain from direct contact with an animal unless absolutely necessary and only when considered safe to do so.
 - Limit risk for an animal rescue (if the animal is not rescued, citizens will attempt a rescue causing us to react to the secondary human rescue).
 - g. Rescue or recovery
6. In the event a water rescue incident occurs during night hours, adverse weather conditions, distance or any situation where the Incident Commander cannot visibly monitor the incident a second level of command may be initiated.
7. Safety of responders is paramount:
- a. All personnel operating within 10 feet of shore must abide by the 10 Foot Rule.
 - b. Consider an additional EMS unit as needed.

D. Land/Shore Based Operations

1. Proper terminology should be established as to river right, river left, upstream, downstream so that all personnel understand locations being identified.
2. When performing a shore-based rescue that involves cold water or ice, the best strategy to employ is one that allows you to perform the rescue without entering the hazard area.
 - a. Reach – Throw – Row – Go
3. If land/shore based operations are not possible or are ineffective, Water Operations should commence.

E. Water Operations including Watercraft

1. All watercraft shall meet the Coast Guard equipment requirements for its classification and have proper lighting for navigation for dusk to dawn operations.
2. Guidelines for watercraft operation shall be done in accordance to proper training, and in accordance with all applicable laws of the waterways. As a minimum, all operators should be aware of the Ohio boating rules and regulations.
3. Any time boat operations are commenced, a second boat capable of supporting, or providing rescue for the primary boat must be on site and ready for immediate action. This may be a boat from another jurisdiction. In the event a boat from another jurisdiction is utilized, communications must be established prior to initiating operations.



Miami Township Fire and EMS Operating Procedures

TITLE:

WATER RESCUE OPERATING PROCEDURE

#602

4. The minimum personnel for each boat shall be three. One person will be responsible for operating the boat and two personnel will be assigned to rescue.
5. Launching Watercraft-
 - a. A spotter or backer shall be used when backing down the ramp and into the water.
 - b. When launching a boat from a ramp the boat should be at the water's edge before removing any bow attachment.
 - c. Launching of the boat shall be in accordance with the Operating Instructions available on the watercraft located near the helm.
 - d. If a person is operating the trailer winch, safety chain, or is in between the trailer and the tow vehicle, the tow vehicle shall be in park with the emergency/parking brake applied.

F. Deployment

1. Apparatus and personnel deployment shall be done in accordance with the *Staffing Operating Procedure #402*.